

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – JULY 29, 2015

Chairman Gregor called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**Approval for the July 29, 2015 Meeting Agenda**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to accept the July 29<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
  2. Commissioner Weinberg seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Approval for Minutes from June 17, 2015 Meeting**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to approve the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as presented.
  2. Commissioner Boyles Griffin seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee Report** - Presentation given by Larry Hindman, Waterfowl Project Leader

- Waterfowl Project Leader Larry Hindman indicated that the Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee met via conference call on July 28<sup>th</sup> to review and discuss the 2015-2016 Late Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits.
- The Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee endorsed the proposals as presented during the conference call.
- The Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee provides a report to the Commission by the Chair or by Larry Hindman. This Committee's role is to evaluate and review the management of migratory game birds in Maryland.

**2015-2016 Waterfowl Season Proposals** – Presentation given by Larry Hindman, Waterfowl Project Leader.

- Waterfowl Project Leader Larry Hindman presented the proposed 2015-2016 waterfowl seasons and bag limits. **[ATTACHMENT A]**
- The Proposed Maryland Late Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits for 2015-2016 Hunting Year were handed out to the Commission. **[ATTACHMENT B]**
- There was a change in the federal regulatory process for migratory birds. Beginning next year the frameworks will cover a two-year cycle and the Atlantic Flyway Council will meet to discuss frameworks in October instead of July of each year. This model will commence in October 2015 with discussions pertinent to the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons.
- Question and Answer Section:
  1. Commissioner Weinberg asked during the two-year period is there a process for an adjustment due to species population needs.
    - a. That process has not been decided by USFWS. Although it appears the USFWS is planning for a different process to account for canvasback population monitoring in the two-year cycle. Canada has been using the two-year cycle for a number of years so this is not new to North America.
  2. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked why the proposed Duck Hunting Season is until the end of January.
    - a. After receiving public comments from the hunters, most hunters prefer to hunt late for the ducks. In fact, WHS has received suggestions to extend it until February but the federal

frameworks do not allow that.

3. Commissioner Weinberg asked about the theory behind the October duck season instead of starting in November.
  - a. There are ducks that migrate sooner; such as, teal and wood duck. There was a law adopted by the General Assembly to have a three-way split duck season and have an October duck season. Also, surveys that were conducted on wildlife management areas from Dorchester County and south, there is a peak in the number of ducks during that period.
4. Commissioner Fratz asked when WHS bands resident geese.
  - a. WHS staff band geese while the geese are molting, which is during the last two weeks in June up to the first week in July. Resident geese are banded annually. The Atlantic Population Canada geese are surveyed in Northern Quebec.
5. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked if there was an earlier Resident Canada Goose Season in the Atlantic Population Zone.
  - a. Yes, there is an early Resident Canada Goose Season. The early Resident Canada Goose Season has already been set. The September Teal Season has also been set.
6. Mr. Jeffrey Plummer asked the status of the Light Goose Conservation Order Season.
  - a. Even though the population is stable, biologists would like to see light goose populations in the range of 500,000 to 750,000 birds. From the recent photo count, the population is not there yet. The damage that light geese cause has been reduced in some areas.
7. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked why strict liability has been a part of Maryland's law all these years.
  - a. This is more of a social discussion than an ecological discussion. Most other states abandoned strict liability around fifteen years ago when the USFWS did the same.
  - b. Waterfowl populations are healthy and regulations can be adjusted to deal with any negative impacts of this change.
8. Commissioner Michael asked what determines the Teal boundaries.
  - a. Basically, the boundaries include coastal plain areas coupled to areas where more than 80 percent of the ducks are Teal during the early season. This minimizes the chance of non-teal species being harvested. The habitat changes in Southern Ontario from grasslands, which provides nesting cover to agricultural lands, have an impact on the teal population.

### **Break 10:20 AM to 10:30 AM**

#### **Service Award** – Presentation given by Paul A. Peditto, Director

- Director Peditto thanked outgoing Chair Jeffrey Plummer for his outstanding service on the Wildlife Advisory Commission. Jeffrey Plummer served on the Wildlife Advisory Commission since 2007. Mr. Plummer served as Chair for three years.
- Director Peditto outlined that Mr. Plummer did a remarkable job in managing the often complex and cumbersome issues before WAC and bridging the gap with various interest groups and stakeholders.
- Director Peditto presented Mr. Plummer with a Certificate of Service Award.
- Mr. Plummer acknowledged that it is rewarding to give back to the wildlife in the State. Mr. Plummer thanked the Commission members for serving on the Commission and the hard work that the members do.

#### **WHS Administration Program Update and WHS FY15 and FY16 Budget Update** - Presentation given by Glenn Therres, Associate Director.

- Associate Director Therres outlined the WHS Administration Program along with WHS FY15 and

FY16 Budget Update. [ATTACHMENT C]

- Associate Director Therres provided a copy of WHS FY16 Appropriations. [ATTACHMENT D]
- Director Peditto explained that three years ago WHS general funding was close to \$100,000. USFWS audited WHS and the concluded that the allocation of \$1.00 from resident hunting licenses to Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) violated our Pittman-Robertson commitment for use of federal funds. Future funding for WHS will be jeopardized if the agency continued to use the funds to that end.
- Question and Answer Section:
  1. Commissioner Michael asked how the Pittman-Robertson Funds are allocated to the states.
    - a. The Pittman-Robertson Fund is a formula driven allocation. The formula is based on the physical size of the state and the number of licensed hunters. This goes into an equation that USFWS uses for the allocation of the Pittman-Robertson Fund by state. This is not based upon the amount of income that the state generates for the Pittman-Robertson Fund.
  2. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked how long the trend related to the increase of Pittman-Robertson has been going on.
    - a. The trend has been going on for about six years. In the next few years, it will start to decline based on projections from USFWS. Maryland could capture more Pittman-Robertson Fund by certifying more hunters along with sale of more hunting licenses.
    - b. There are multiple audiences who do not purchase hunting licenses but benefit from the resources that hunting licenses revenue brings to Maryland. DNR cannot capture these funds without charging a nominal fee to each of the participants.
  3. Commissioner Michael asked about the potential percentage increase if DNR was able to capture these audiences.
    - a. Staff members do not know how many landowners that are hunting without a license. Also, fox chasers do not need a hunting license. Both groups represent hundreds, perhaps thousands of potential new license buyers and ultimately a source for federal matching funds.
    - b. The Group Furbearer Permit does not count towards the Pittman-Robertson Fund.
- Commissioner Michael commented that when there are fiscal notes for local legislation that staff members spend a lot of time on that the fiscal notes should reflect staff time for these local legislations, which has little return.

**Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Update** – Presented by Matt Tefteau, Assistant Director of the Maryland Farm Bureau.

- Matthew Tefteau, Assistant Government Relations Director pointed out that there is little to report to the Commission.
- Mr. Tefteau mentioned to the Commission that many of the Maryland poultry farmers are very concerned about Avian Influenza. Mr. Tefteau recognized that DNR, USFWS, and Maryland Department of Agriculture are tracking Avian Influenza very closely.
- Mr. Tefteau received questions from farmers about protocols for obtaining the crop damage permit for geese if Avian Influenza reaches Maryland. Mr. Tefteau asked would there be a protective order or emergency regulations implemented if Avian Influenza reaches Maryland.
  1. It would be public health and safety and not natural resources.
  2. In regards to crop damage permit for resident Canada geese, there is no mechanism to reduce population for these reasons.
  3. There is a depredation permit for resident Canada goose that a farmer can apply for, which is online or the farmer can contact USDA Wildlife Services at 1-877-463-6497 for lethal take of resident Canada geese. The link to information related to controlling conflicts with resident

Canada geese is on our webpage at

[http://dnr2.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants\\_wildlife/ResGeeseProblem.aspx](http://dnr2.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/ResGeeseProblem.aspx)

4. Waterfowl Biologist Larry Hindman provided this information to Bill Satterfield, Executive Director of Delmarva Poultry Industry and to members of the Delmarva Avian Influenza Task Force along with guidance from USDA related to litigation measures that the farmers could take. The information has been provided to Delmarva Poultry Industry to minimize impact of migratory birds on the poultry industry.
  - a. Mr. Tefteau will check with Bill Satterfield so this information can be disseminated to Maryland poultry farmers.
5. There is no clear connection to the outbreak of Avian Influenza with migratory game birds. This is still being discussed.
6. This outbreak transferred from Asia to the Northern Mississippi Flyway combined with North America Flyway Avian Influenza, which is what biologists are dealing with now.
- Mr. Tefteau thanked Eastern Regional Manager John Moulis and Associate Director Pete Jayne, for speaking with farmers from the Eastern Region on deer management permits. Mr. Tefteau will arrange additional deer management permit workshops throughout the State with WHS help.

#### **Natural Resources Police (NRP) Update** – Presentation given by Captain Edward Johnson

- The cadets will be graduating on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- NRP seized a West African spitting cobra, a monocled cobra, and timber rattlesnake from a pet shop that someone had inside a house in Allegany County.

#### **Old Business**

- SB0088 Natural Resources – Game Birds – Baiting
  1. At the last Commission meeting there was a discussion about the implications of passing.
  2. The regulations were adopted and are in place. Maryland State law now is the same as the Federal law, which has been in place for 15 years.
  3. Discussion Section:
    - a. Discussion ensued about the potential impacts the law change will have on making baiting cases with the lack of NRP officers but baiting cases still can be made.
    - b. The Commission received public comments about removal of strict liability.
    - c. The Commission could request that the Administration make sure that conservation law enforcement officers are doing conservation law enforcement related to waterfowl, non-game species, and endangered species and not focusing on traffic and public safety issues. Wildlife species should be a priority for NRP just like striped bass and oysters.

#### **New Business**

- No new business.

#### **Public Comment Period**

- No further public comment.

#### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, August 19, 2015 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

**Attendance**

Members:	G. Fratz, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, J. Michael, , J. Schroyer, and R. Weinberg
Absent:	L. Compton
Guest:	A.Ellis, T. Johnson, J. Lamp, J. Plummer, and M. Teffeau
Staff:	L. Hindman, B. Harvey, E. Johnson, P. Jayne, P. Peditto, S. Richardson, T. Spencer. G. Therres

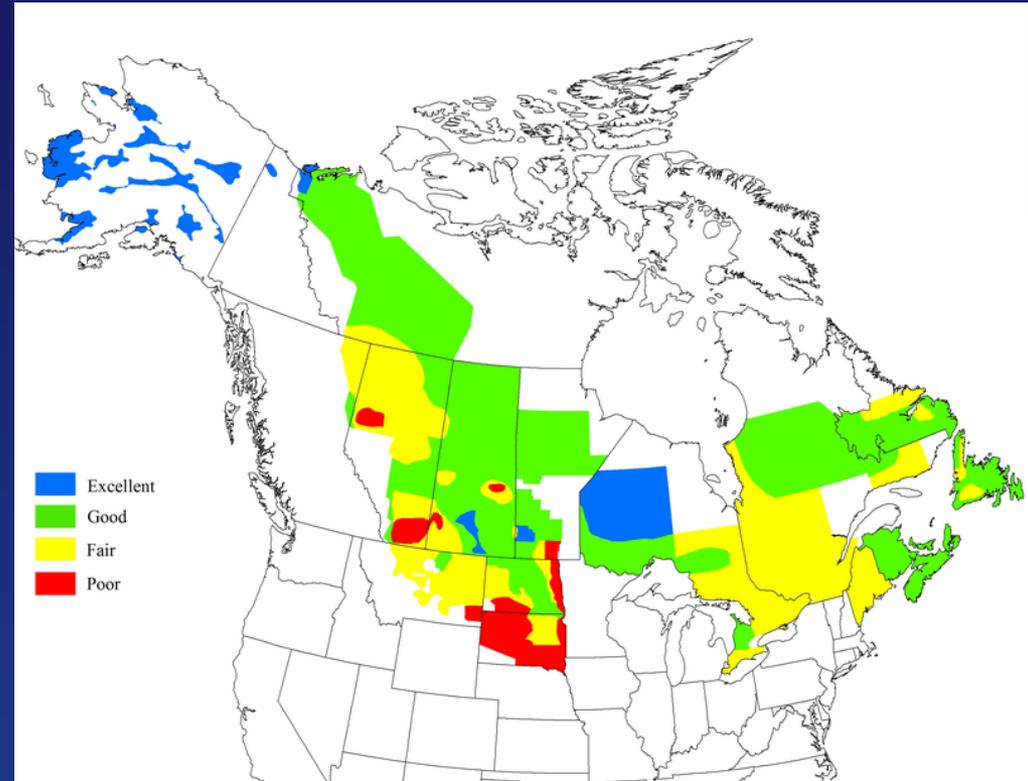
# 2015 Waterfowl Population Status



# Waterfowl Breeding and Habitat Survey 2015

Total ponds in U.S. and  
Canada - 6.3 M, 12%  
below 7.2 M in 2014

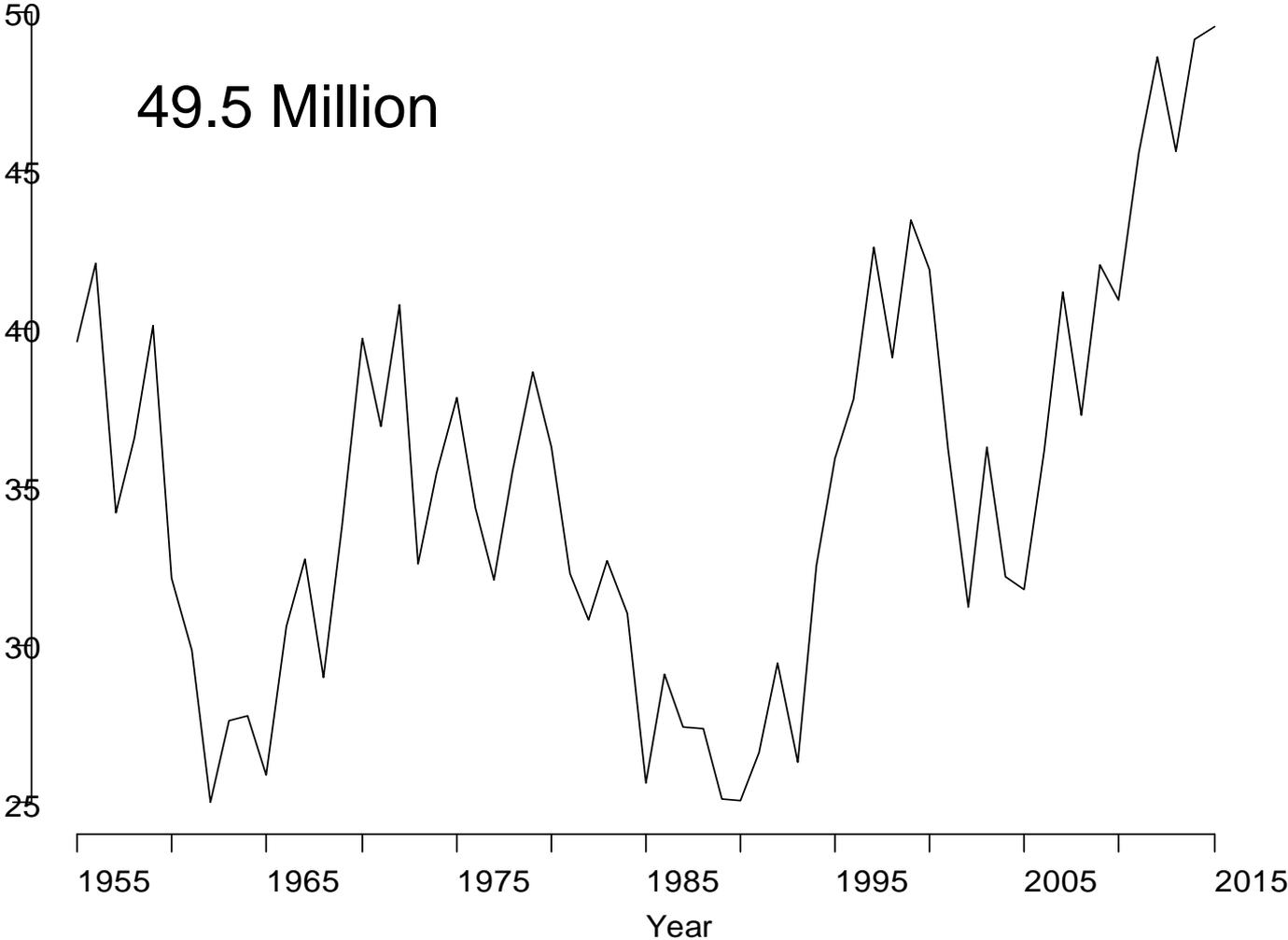
21% above the LTA  
(1955 - 2014) of 5.2M



# Total ducks

Population Estimate (in Millions)

49.5 Million



## 2015 Breeding Ducks By Species (in millions)

Species	2015	2014	% Change from 2014	% Change from LTA
Mallard	11.6	10.9	+7	+51, 7.7 M
Gadwall	3.8	3.8	+1	+100, 1.9 M
American wigeon	3.0	3.1	-3	+17, 2.6 M
Green-winged teal	4.1	3.4	+19	+98, 2.1 M
Blue-winged teal	8.5	8.5	0	+73, 4.9 M
Northern shoveler	4.4	5.3	-17	+75, 2.5 M
Northern pintail	3.0	3.2	-6	-24, 4.0 M
Redhead	1.2	1.3	-6	+71, 0.7 M
Canvasback	.757	.685	+11	+30, 0.6 M
Scaup	4.4	4.6	-5	-13, 5.0 M
Total Ducks	49.5	49.2	+1	+43

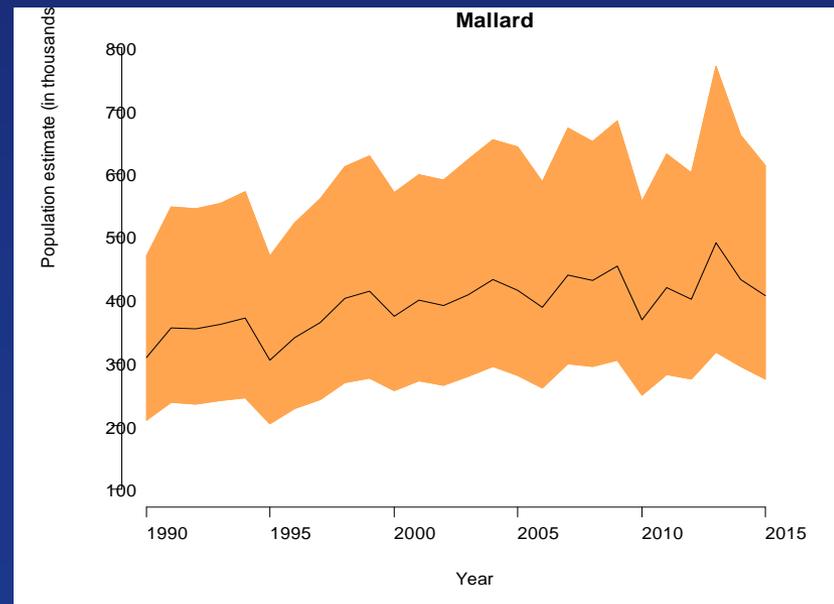
# Eastern Mallard Population Status

Eastern Mallard breeding population (BPOP) index used to set AF duck hunting regulations.

In 2015, the estimated abundance of mallards was  $0.4 \pm 0.1$  million, which was similar to the 2014 estimate and the 1990 – 2014 average

2015 estimate 33% below peak of 1.1 M in 1996. Harvest is down more than 33% since implementation of 60-day duck seasons.

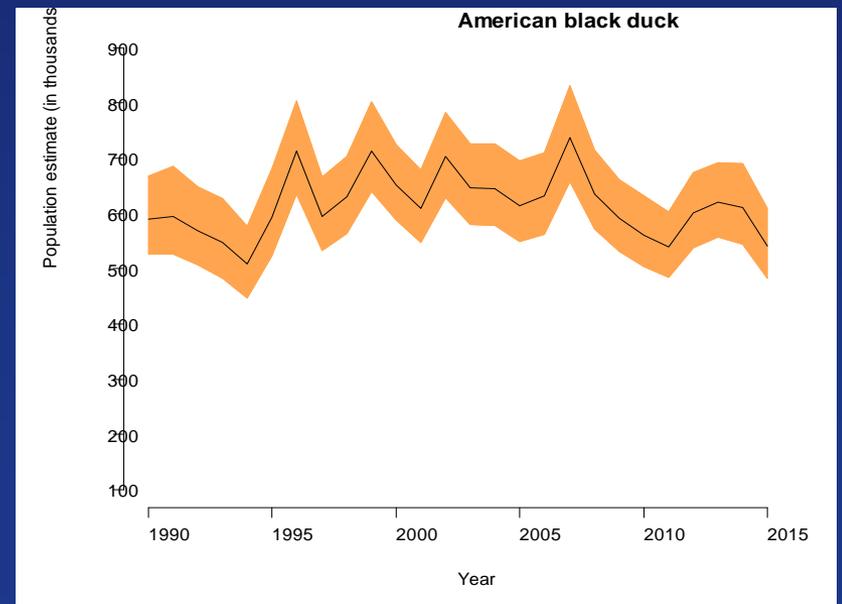
A liberal regulation (60-day season and 6-duck bag limit) is prescribed for AF in 2015.



# American Black Duck Population Status

Estimated Black Duck breeding population index in 2015 was 541,000, below 2014 and the LTA.

Prescribed Black Duck hunting regulations in the U.S. remain restrictive, i.e., no change from 2014.



# Canvasback Population Status

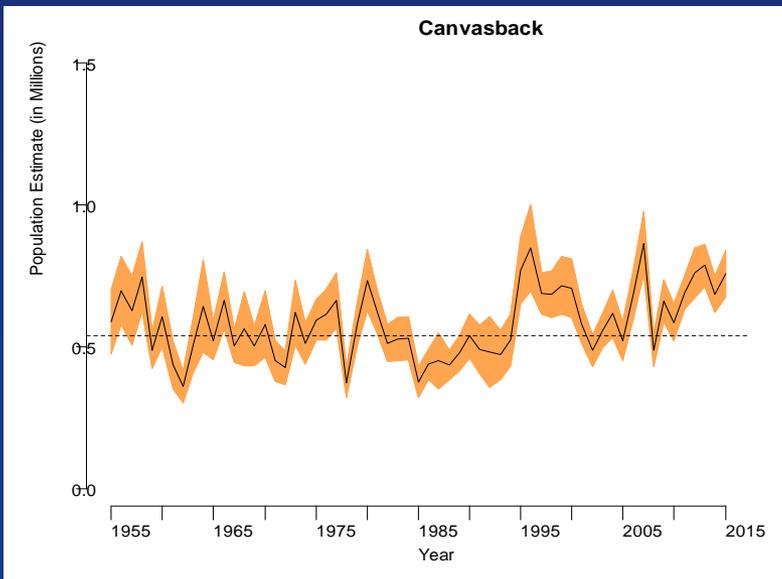


The 2015 BPOP was 757,000, 11% above 2014 and 30% above the LTA

Ponds in Prairie Canada were 4.2 M, 30% above the LTA.

Harvest strategy calls for a full season with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

Predicted BPOP in 2016 following a 2 bird bag in 2015 is 727,600 (>725,000 threshold).



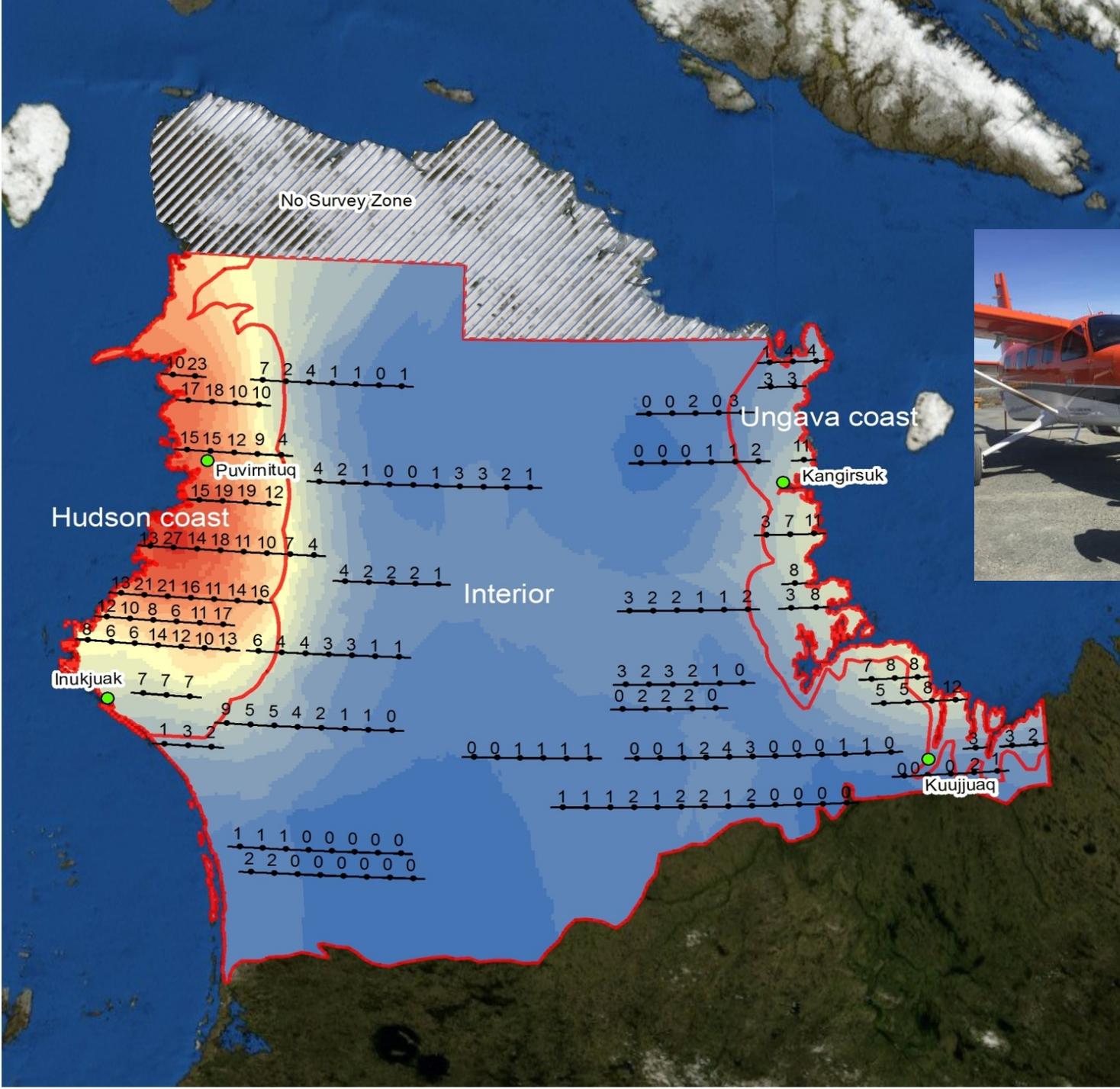
# Atlantic Population Canada Goose Harvest Strategy

AP Population Objective - 225,000 breeding pairs in the Ungava region of Quebec.

3-year average (2012, 2014-2015) = 181,761 pairs; No pair survey conducted in 2013.

When the breeding pair index (3 yr. average) is at or above 150,000, A Moderate regulation (50-day season) is prescribed.

When the breeding pair index (3-yr. average) is above 225,000, a Liberal regulation (60-day season) may be considered that would target a projected harvest rate of breeding adults not to exceed 15%.



June 10-24,  
2015

# Snow Depth



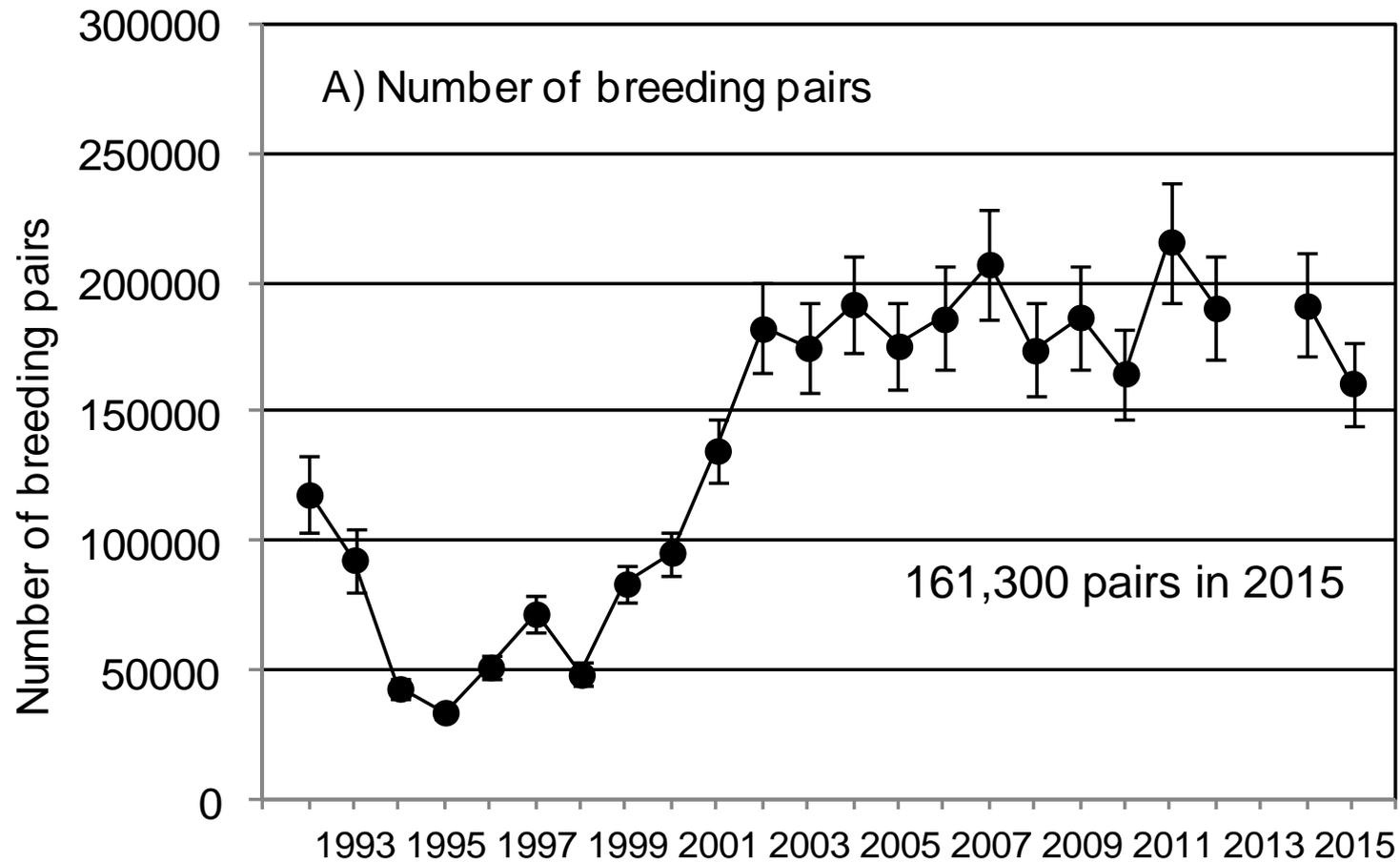
May 25, 2014

# Snow Depth

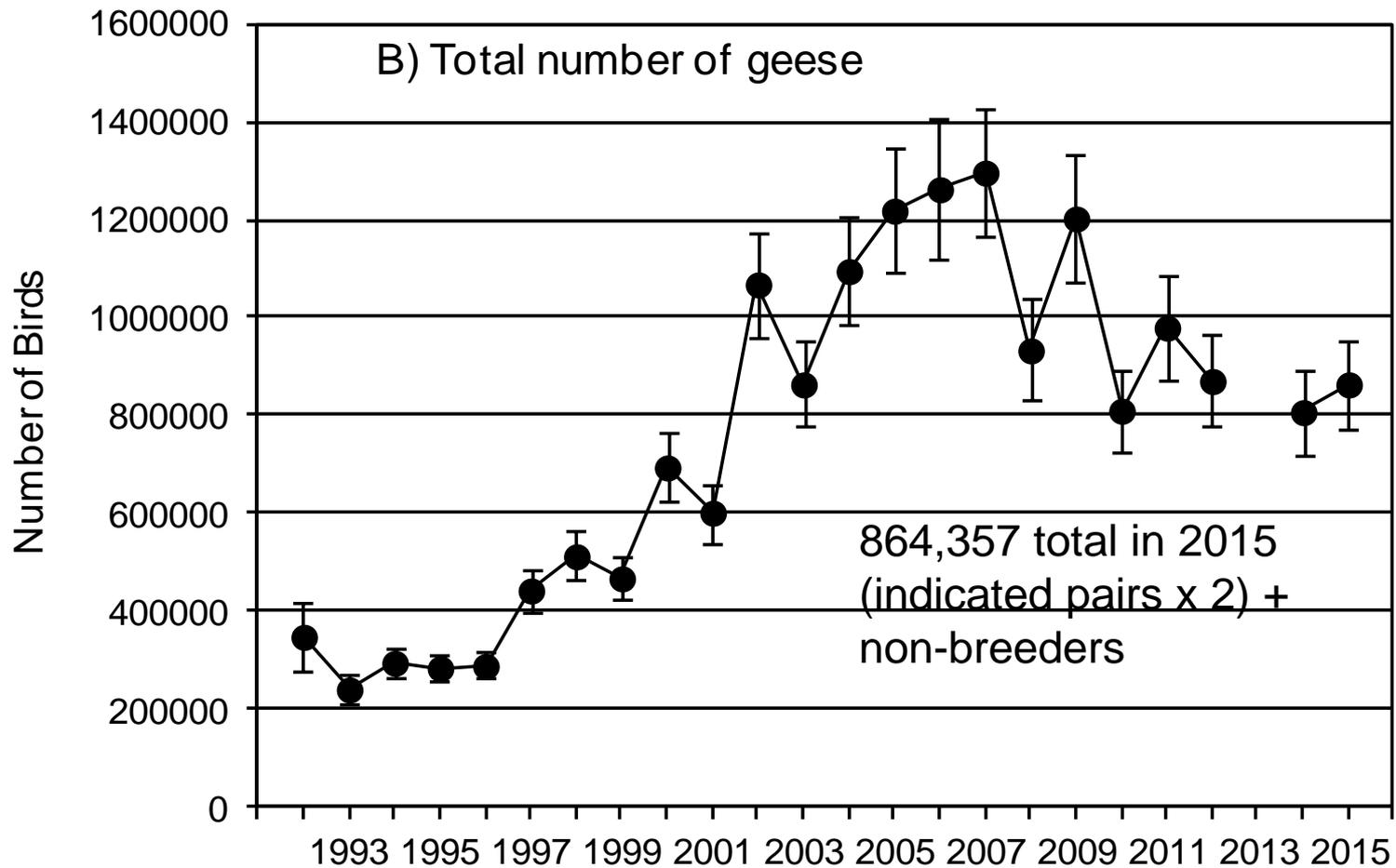


May 27, 2015

# Estimates of Breeding Pairs of AP Canada Geese on the Ungava Peninsula 1992 - 2015



# Estimates of Total Canada Geese on the Ungava Peninsula 1992 - 2015



## AP Goose Production



- In 2015, the percent of indicated pairs observed as singles was 49%, similar to the long-term mean of 51%.
- Pair survey habitat fly-over suggest a below average reproductive year, and particularly poor along the Hudson Bay coast.
- A model using May temperatures and June snowfall at Kuujjuaq (Ungava Bay) predicts gosling production to be average.
- 2015 gosling production will be confirmed by two banding crews on the Ungava Peninsula August 4-15.

# Atlantic Brant Status

2015 Midwinter Survey - 111,400 ,  
23% lower than 2014 but above the  
threshold of 100K for 30-day season.

Low production for past 3 years (2013  
- 2015), 3.4% - 7.4% juveniles in fall  
flight.

Below average production is expected  
from Southampton Island and other  
breeding areas like Banks and Baffin  
Islands.



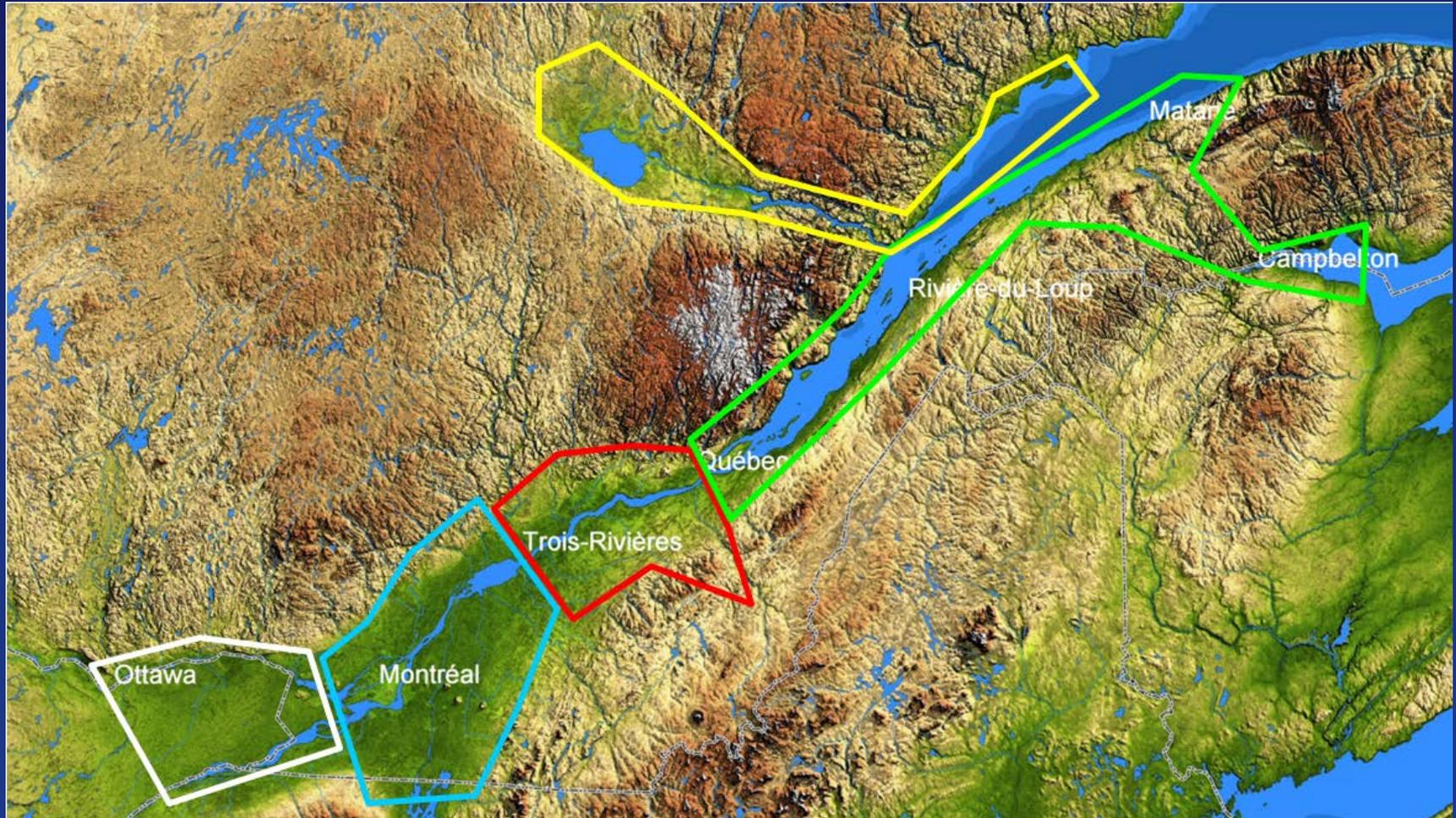
# Greater Snow Goose Management Plan

## Atlantic Flyway Council

Objective - Reduce and maintain the GSG population in a range between 500,000 and 750,000 as indexed by the spring survey in southern Québec.

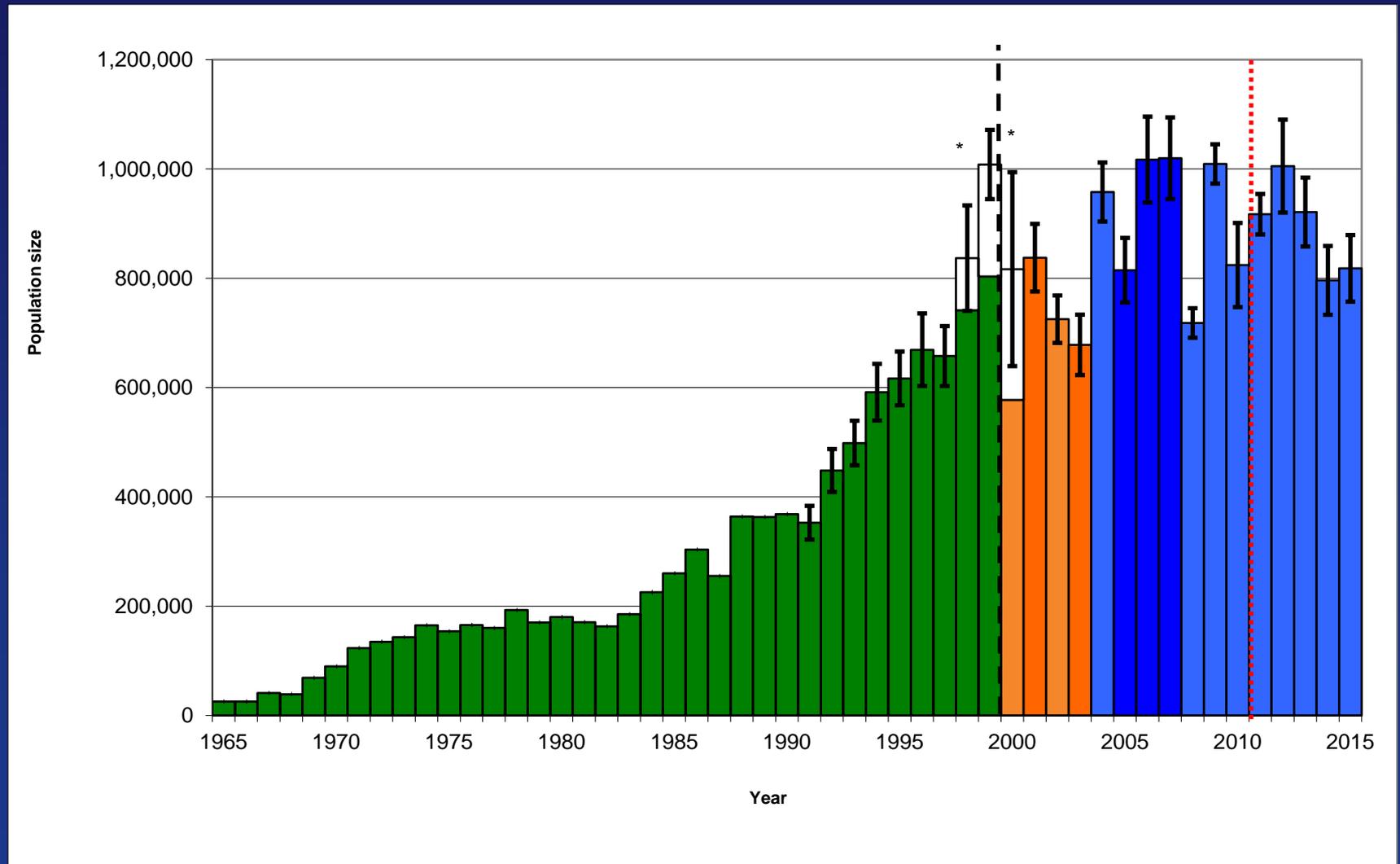


# Spring Photo Count in St. Lawrence River Valley



# Greater Snow Goose Photo Count

## 1965 - 2015



# Greater Snow Goose Nesting

- Nesting conditions and snow goose nesting effort on Bylot Island was average.
- Mean nest initiation date (June 12), clutch size (3.60 eggs per nest), and nest success good (84%, success to late incubation).
- Nest density was good and predation was moderate though clutch size is slightly below normal
- An average or above average fall flight is expected.



# Migratory Bird Regulations

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act 1918 established Federal authority for management of migratory birds.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service promulgates hunting season frameworks provided to States.
- Frameworks include:
  - maximum season length
  - earliest and latest dates
  - maximum daily bag limit



# Annual Cycle for Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations

- Population Monitoring
- ↓
- Atlantic Flyway Technical Section meeting (mid July)
- ↓
- Atlantic Flyway Council
- ↓
- U. S. FWS Service Regulations Committee (includes 4 flyway council reps)

- State announces proposed seasons and bag limits
- ↑
- Input from public, WAC, MGBAC, MOGA, and MDWFA
- ↑
- Final selection by DNR
- ↑
- Final approval by USFWS



Final Frameworks

# 2015 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits under Consideration

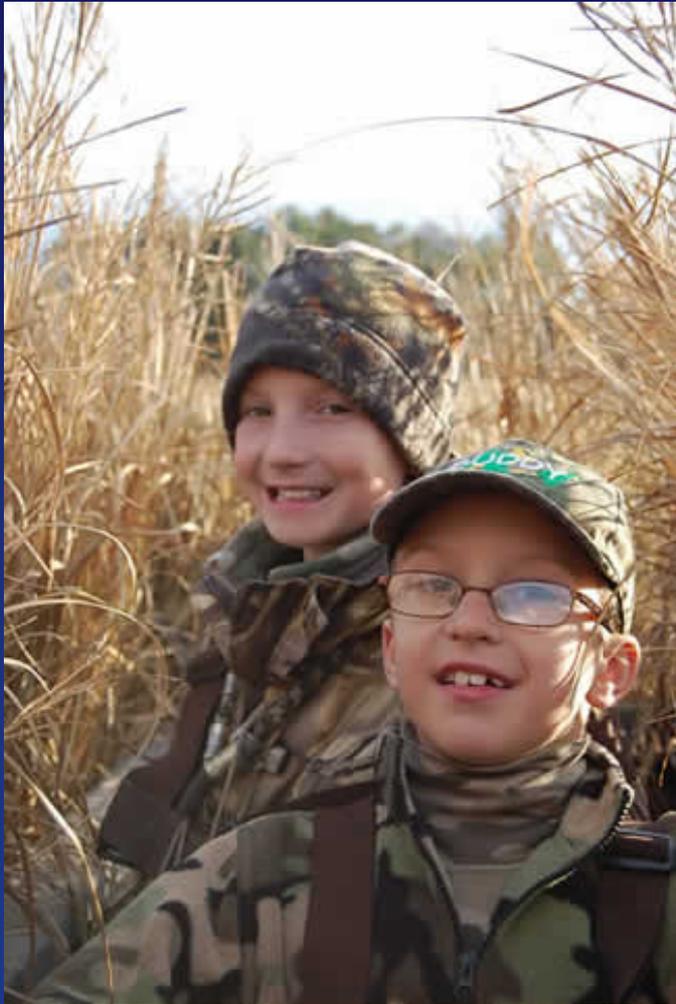


# MD DNR Priorities Considered when Formulating Hunting Season Proposals



- Must meet the biological requirements of the waterfowl resource to sustain populations.
- Overlapping duck and goose seasons to the extent possible.
- Maximizing opportunity for waterfowl hunters, particularly youth.
- Maximizing open hunting days statewide, especially Saturdays and holidays.
- Regulation simplicity.

# Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days



## Proposed Seasons

Nov. 7 and Feb. 6

## Daily Bag Limit

6 ducks (certain species bag restrictions), 2 Canada geese, 1 brant, 25 light geese, and 15 coots.

## Requirements

Must be accompanied by an unarmed, adult at least 21 years old. Adult may assist in calling, setting decoys, retrieving downed birds.

# Duck Hunting Season

A large flock of ducks is gathered on a body of water, likely a marsh or pond, during a misty or foggy morning. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting sunrise or sunset. The ducks are silhouetted against the bright background, and their reflections are visible on the water's surface. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

## Federal Framework

60-day season between  
Saturday nearest Sept. 24 and  
the last Sunday in January with  
a daily bag limit of 6 ducks  
(species restrictions)

## Proposed Season

Oct. 10 - Oct. 17

Nov. 14 - Nov. 27

Dec. 15 - Jan. 30

## Daily Bag Limit

6 per day (including mergansers) but no more than 5 Long-tailed Ducks, 4 Scoters, 4 Mallards (2 hens), 3 Wood Ducks, 2 Pintails, 2 Redheads, 2 Scaup, 2 Canvasback, 2 Hooded Mergansers, 1 Black Duck (during Black Duck season), 1 Mottled Duck, and 1 Fulvous Tree Duck.

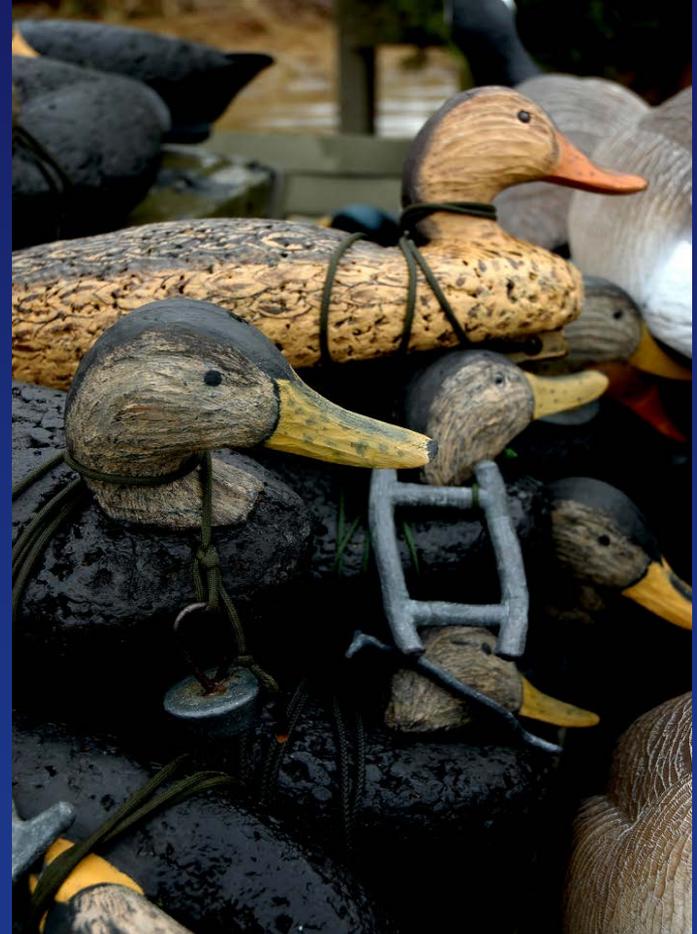
# Black Duck Season within Regular Duck Season

**Federal Framework**  
60-day season with a  
1-bird daily bag limit.

**Proposed Season**  
Nov. 14 - Nov. 27  
Dec. 15 - Jan. 30

**Daily Bag Limit 1**

No open season in October provides protection to Maryland's breeding Black Duck population. Migrant stocks begin arriving in early November.



# Special Sea Duck Hunting Season

(Sea Duck Zone only)

## Federal Framework

107-day season between Sept. 15  
and Jan. 31

**Daily Bag Limit:** 7 but no more than  
4 Scoters

**Proposed Season**  
Oct. 3 - Jan. 31

**Daily Bag Limit**  
5 per day but no more than  
4 Scoters

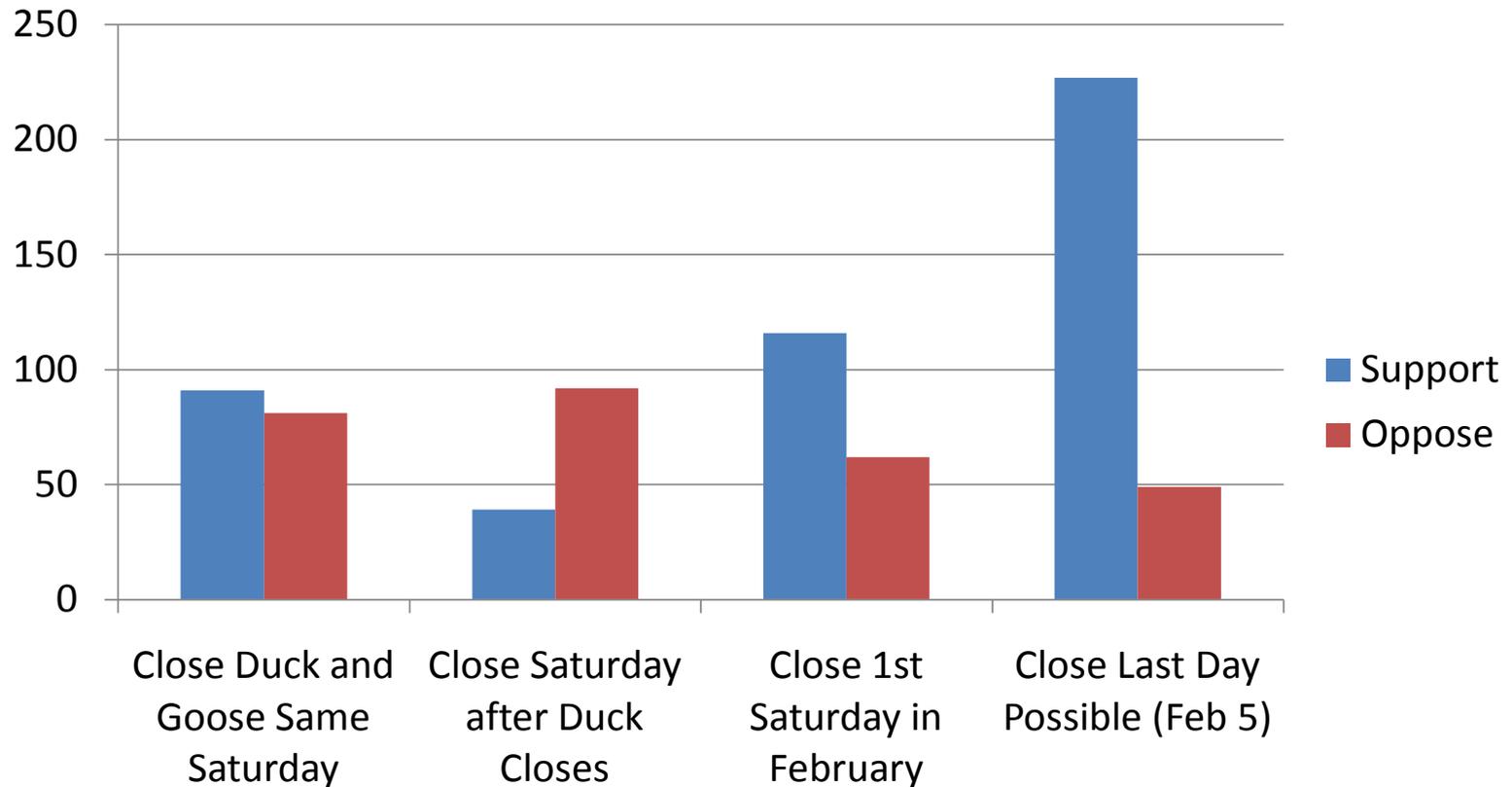


# Waterfowl Hunter Preference Questionnaire Survey

- Measure Maryland waterfowl hunters' preferences for regular duck and goose seasons.
- Survey sent to 1,500 randomly selected waterfowl hunters who purchased a 2013 Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp.
- Analysis based upon 425 responses.



# Preferred Closing Day AP Canada Goose Season



# AP Canada Goose Hunting Season

## Federal Framework

A 50-day season between Nov.  
15 and Feb. 5

Daily Bag Limit 2 per day

## Proposed Season

Nov. 21 - Nov. 27

Dec. 15 - Feb. 3

Daily Bag Limit

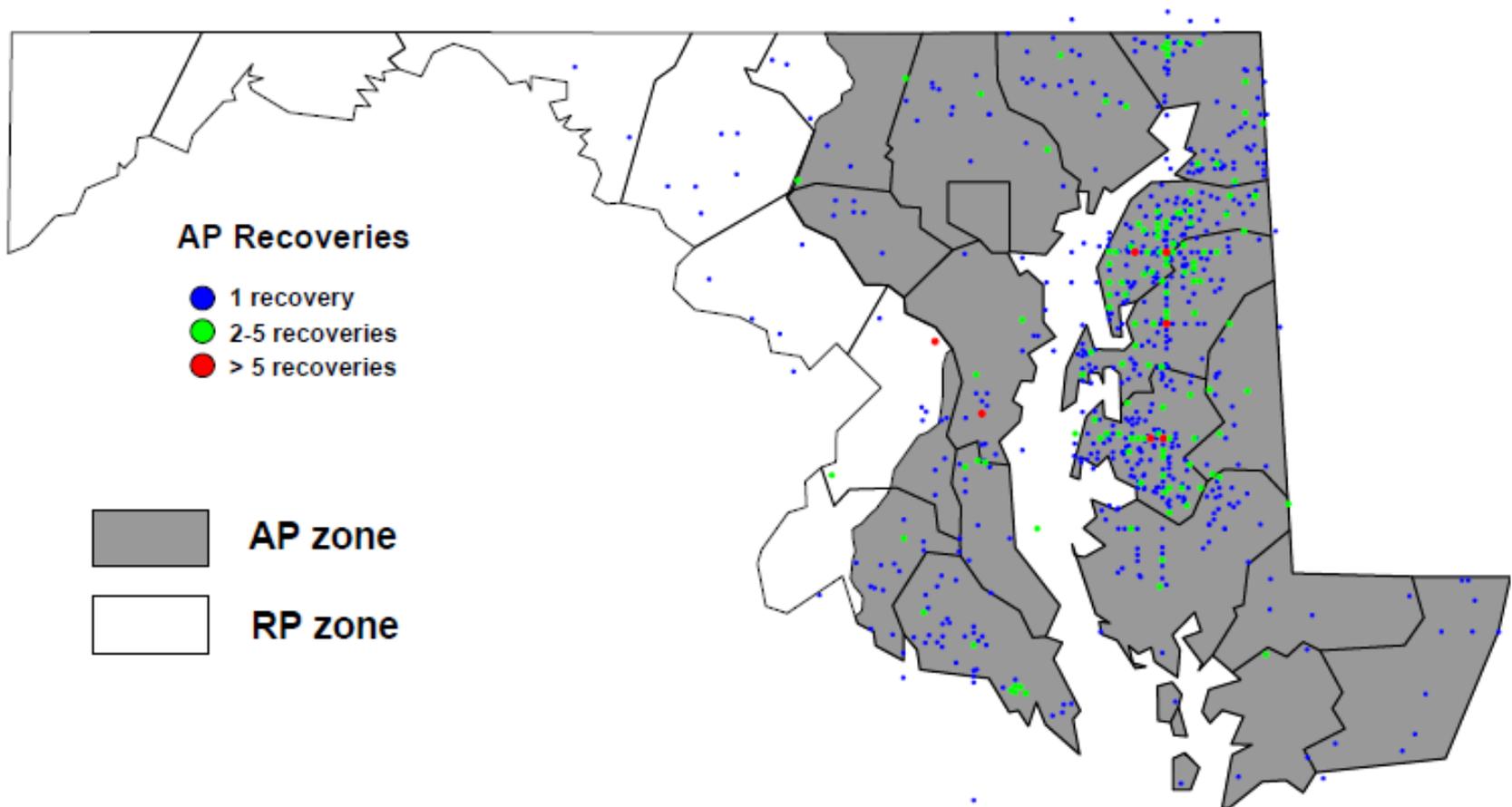
2 per day



# AP Canada Goose Band Recoveries

2012 - 2014

## Maryland



# Atlantic Flyway Resident Population Canada Goose Hunting Season

AFRP Zone



## Federal Framework

80-day season between Nov. 15  
and Mar. 10

Daily Bag Limit 5 per day

## Proposed Season

Nov. 21 - Nov. 27

Dec. 15 - Mar. 9

Daily Bag Limit 5 per day

# Atlantic Brant Hunting Season



## Federal Framework

30-day season between the Saturday nearest Sept. 24 (Sept. 26) and Jan. 31, with a 1-bird daily bag limit.

## Proposed Season

Dec 28 - Jan. 30

Daily Bag Limit 1

# Light Goose Hunting Season

## Federal Framework

107-day season between Oct. 1 and Mar. 10 with a 25-bird daily bag limit and no possession limit

## Proposed Season

Oct. 3 - Nov. 27

Dec. 14 - Feb. 6

Daily Bag Limit 25  
No Possession Limit



# Light Goose Conservation Order Season

Proposed CO Season

Nov. 30 - Dec. 12

Feb. 8 - Apr. 16

Daily Bag Limit No Limit

Hunters may use unplugged  
shotguns and e-calls

Shooting hours extended to 1/2 hour after sunset

Participants must possess a Snow Goose Conservation Order Hunting Season Permit. Permits available from DNR sport license agents, online, or by phone for a \$5 fee.



Questions?





# Sea Duck Harvest Potential Assessment

All species appear to be over harvested.

Productivity of long-tailed ducks and common eider is low, in the case of eiders duckling survival is low

Likely change in sea duck season regulations in 2016; i.e., reduction in season length from 107 days to 60 days, 5 bird limit but no more than 4 scoters, or 4 long-tailed ducks, or 4 eiders.



# ASSESSING THE HARVEST POTENTIAL AND TAKE OF SEA DUCKS

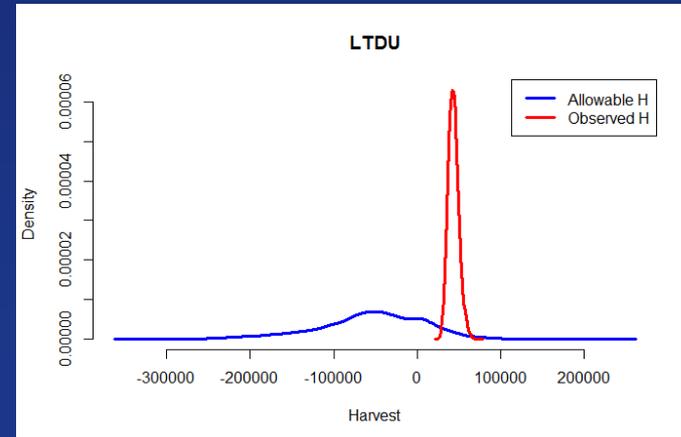
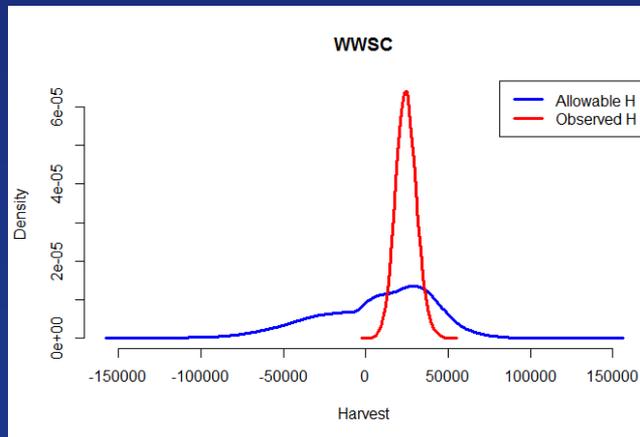
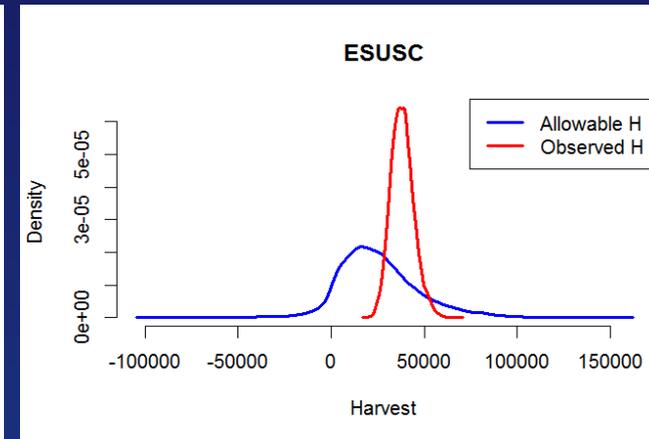
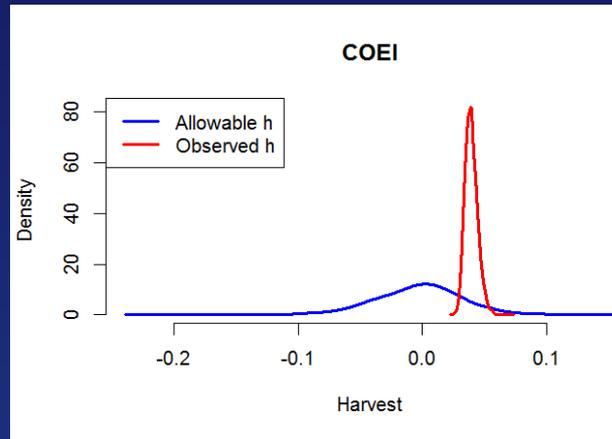
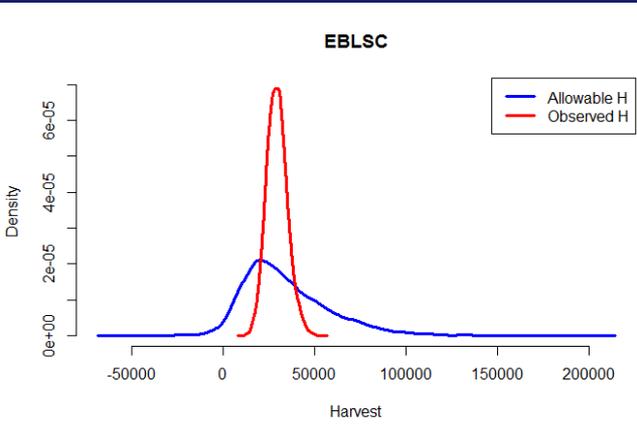
## SDJV Harvest Management Subcommittee



# Assessment Results

Population	Survival rate	Fecundity (fledged JF per AF)	Prop $H_{\text{obs}} > H_{\text{allow}}$
Eastern BLSC	0.88	0.65	0.48
Eastern SUSC	0.88	0.62	0.75
WWSC	0.84	0.58	0.64
COEI (dresseri)	0.90	0.21	0.89
LTDU	0.81	0.30	0.95

# Harvest Management Implications



# Harvest management implications: Questions

Should the harvest objective be 100% of MSY?

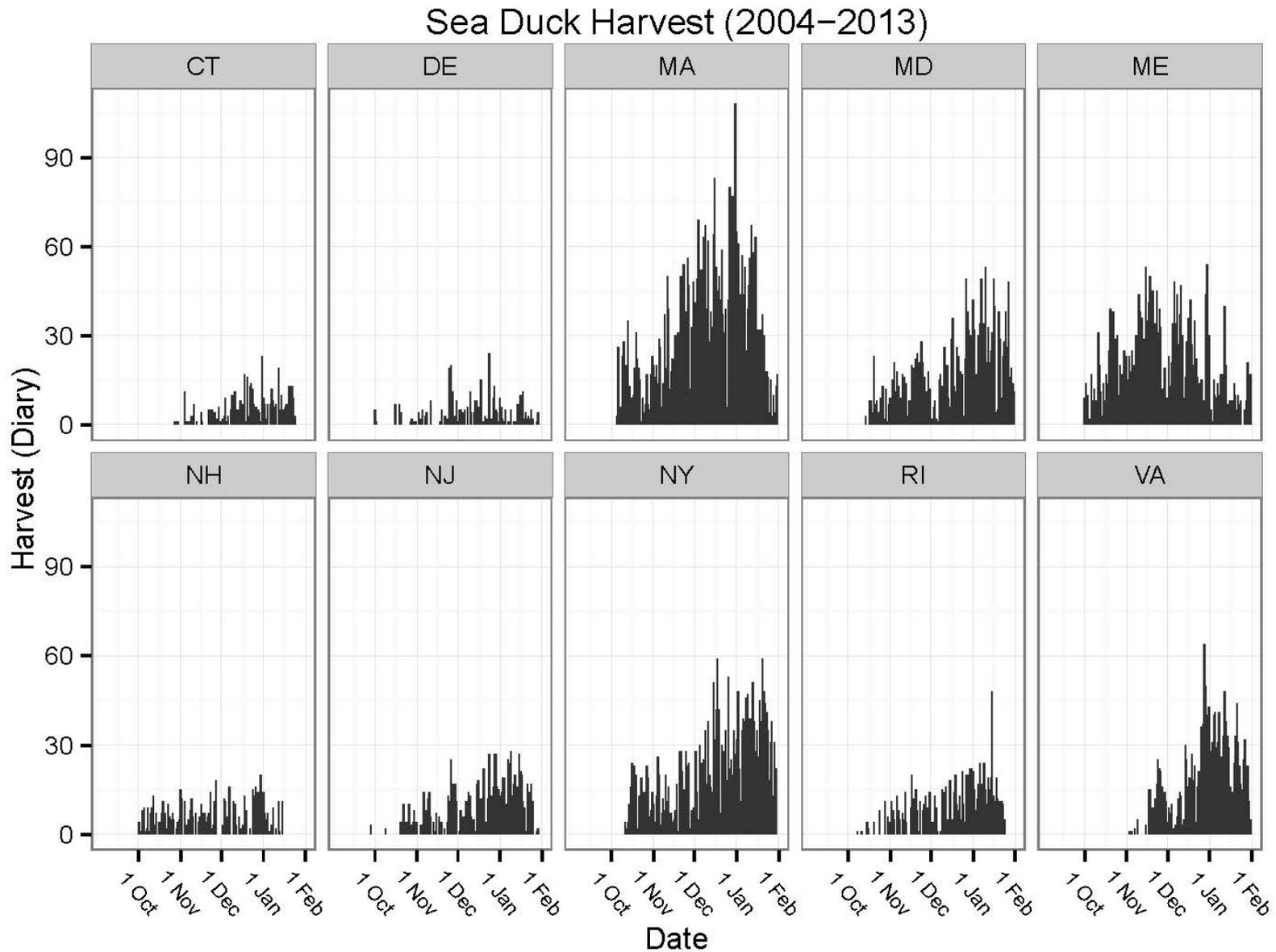
How much do we want/need to reduce harvest from current levels?

- Judgment call informed by assessment
- Should be a detectable (measurable) reduction

What action(s) should we take to achieve desired reduction?

- Reduce season length?
- Reduce bag limits?
- Combination?

# Temporal distribution of sea duck harvest



# Effect of Season Length Reduction: Expected Harvest Reduction flyway-wide

- 80 days\* = 92% of current harvest = 8% reduction
- 70 days\* = 87% of current harvest = 13% reduction
- 60 days\* = 80% of current harvest = 20% reduction

\* Consecutive hunt days

# Effect of Bag Limit Reduction: Scoters

Daily bag	Total bags	Total ducks	Number of scoters shot			
			1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1	696	696	696			
2	344	688	344	344		
3	269	807	269	269	269	
4	366	1464	366	366	366	366
Total	1675	3655	1675	979	635	366
% of total		100.0	45.8	26.8	17.4	10.0
Cumulative %			45.8	72.6	90.0	100.0
Bag limit		4	3	2	1	0
% reduction from 4-bird limit		0.0	10.0	27.4	54.2	100.0

# Effect of Bag Limit Reduction: Long-tailed ducks

Daily bag	Total bags	Total ducks	Number of long-tailed ducks shot							
			1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	
1	479	479	479							
2	186	372	186	186						
3	82	246	82	82	82					
4	63	252	63	63	63	63				
5	21	105	21	21	21	21	21			
6	12	72	12	12	12	12	12	12		
7	12	84	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Total	855	1610	855	376	190	108	45	24	12	
% of total		100.0	53.1	23.4	11.8	6.7	2.8	1.5	0.7	
Cumulative %			53.1	76.5	88.3	95.0	97.8	99.3	100	
Bag limit		7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
% reduction from 7-bird limit		0.0	0.7	2.2	5.0	11.7	23.5	46.9	100.0	

# Effect of Bag Limit Reduction: Eiders

Daily bag	Total bags	Total ducks	Number of eiders shot							
			1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	
1	395	395	395							
2	289	578	289	289						
3	185	555	185	185	185					
4	272	1088	272	272	272	272				
5	135	675	135	135	135	135	135			
6	12	72	12	12	12	12	12	12		
7	3	21	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Total	1291	3384	1291	896	607	422	150	15	3	
% of total		100.0	38.2	26.5	17.9	12.5	4.4	0.4	0.1	
Cumulative %			38.2	64.6	82.6	95.0	99.5	99.9	100	
Bag limit		7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
% reduction from 7-bird limit		0.0	0.1	0.5	5.0	17.4	35.4	61.8	100.0	

# Sample Sizes for Date Distribution of Harvest

- Maine 683 hunts (2,507 birds shot)
- New Hampshire 162 (606)
- Connecticut 197 (442)
- Massachusetts 1,248 (3,905)
- Rhode Island 334 (950)
- New York 889 (2,542)
- New Jersey 346 (981)
- Delaware 136 (368)
- Maryland 665 (1,936)
- Virginia 581 (1,633)
- North Carolina (PCS) 235 (589)

# Atlantic Flyway Sea Duck Regulations

## 2016-17

- AFC recommended 60-day season between Sept. 15 and Jan. 31 with a daily bag limit of 5 sea ducks but no more than 4 scoter, or 4 long-tailed ducks, or 4 eiders.
- Objective is to reduce sea duck harvest by about 25% over next 5 years.



*Larry Hogan, Governor*  
*Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor*  
*Mark J. Belton, Secretary*  
*Mark L. Hoffman, Acting Deputy Secretary*

## PROPOSED MARYLAND LATE WATERFOWL SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR 2015/16 HUNTING YEAR

### YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

***Federal Framework: States may select 2 days per duck-hunting zone, designated as "Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days," in addition to their regular duck seasons. The days must be held outside any regular duck season on a weekend, holiday, or other non-school day when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate. The days may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck season framework, within any split of a regular duck season, or within any other open season on migratory birds.***

Proposed Season Dates:                      Nov. 7 and Feb. 6

**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** The daily bag limit of ducks (including mergansers) is 6. The 6-duck limit shall consist of no more than 5 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters, 4 mallards (max. 2 hen mallards), 3 wood ducks, 2 scaup, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 canvasbacks, 1 black duck, 1 fulvous tree duck, and 1 mottled duck. All other species of ducks (except harlequin duck) may be taken up to the 6-duck limit. In addition, youth hunters may take 2 Canada geese, 1 brant, 25 light geese, and 15 coots. No open season for harlequin ducks and swans.

Any licensed hunter 15 years old or younger may participate during these one-day hunts. Youth of this age who are exempt from the Maryland hunting license requirements may also participate. Youth waterfowl hunters must possess a receipt showing they purchased a \$9 Maryland Migratory Game Bird Hunting Stamp. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years old that holds a valid Maryland hunting license or is exempt from the hunting license requirements. The accompanying adult may call waterfowl, assist with decoys, and retrieve downed birds but may not possess a hunting weapon.

### DUCKS, COOTS, and MERGANSERS

***Federal Framework: A 60 day season may be held between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 26) and the last Sunday in January (January 31).***

Proposed Season Dates                      Oct. 10 - Oct. 17  
    Nov. 14 - Nov. 27  
    Dec. 15 - Jan. 30

Black Duck                                        Nov. 14 - Nov. 27  
    Dec. 15 - Jan. 30

Duck Daily Bag and Possession Limits: The daily bag limit of ducks (including mergansers) is 6. The 6-duck limit shall consist of no more than 5 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters, 4 mallards (max. 2 hen mallards), 3 wood ducks, 2 scaup, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 canvasbacks, 1 black duck (during black duck open season), 1 fulvous tree duck, and 1 mottled duck. All other species of ducks (except harlequin duck) may be taken up to the 6-duck limit. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. In addition to the duck bag limit, hunters may take 15 coots per day. No open season for harlequin ducks and swans.

### **SEA DUCKS (Scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Eiders)**

***Federal Frameworks: A 107-day season may be selected between September 15 and January 31 with a 7-bird daily bag limit (scoter, long-tailed duck, and eider) within established sea duck hunting areas. This bag limit is in addition to the limits applying to other ducks during the regular duck season. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks and are part of the regular duck season daily bag (not to exceed 4 scoters) and possession limits.***

Proposed Season Dates: Oct. 3 - Jan. 30

Daily Bag Limit: 5 (no more than 4 scoters) per day

### **ATLANTIC POPULATION CANADA GEESE**

***Federal Framework: AP Zone: A 50-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a 2-bird daily bag limit. These seasons also include white-fronted geese. Unless specified otherwise, seasons may be split into two segments.***

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 21- Nov. 27  
Dec. 15 - Feb. 3

Bag Limit: 2 per day\*

AP Zone: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; and that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; and that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line.

### **AF RESIDENT POPULATION CANADA GEESE**

***Federal Framework: An 80-day season may be held between November 15 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.***

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 21 - Nov. 27  
Dec. 15 - Mar. 9

Daily Bag Limit: 5 per day\*

RP Zone: Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, and Washington Counties; and that

portion of Carroll County west of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and west of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; and that portion of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County west of Route 301 to the Virginia line.

\*Includes Canada geese, cackling geese, and white-fronted geese singly or in aggregate.

## **ATLANTIC BRANT**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 30-day season between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 27) and January 31, with a 1-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Dec. 28 - Jan. 30

Daily Bag Limit: 1 per day

## **LIGHT GEESE**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 107-day season between October 1 and March 10, with a 25-bird daily bag limit and no possession limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Oct. 3 - Nov. 27  
Dec. 14 – Feb. 6

Daily Bag Limit: 25 per day\*\* No possession limit.

\*\*Includes greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese singly or in aggregate.

## **LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER**

***Federal Framework:*** The conservation order allows new methods of taking light geese, allows shooting hours for light geese to end one-half hour after sunset, and imposes no daily bag limits for light geese. Control activities may be conducted only when all waterfowl (including light goose) and crane hunting seasons, excluding falconry, are closed.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 30 - Dec. 12  
Feb. 8 - Apr. 16

Daily Bag Limit: No Limit, no possession limit

Hunt Area: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; and that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line. The Special Sea Duck Zone is excluded from this hunt area.

### **Special Regulations during Light Goose Conservation Order Season:**

(1) Participating hunters must possess a \$5 Snow Goose Conservation Order Hunting Season

Permit while hunting light geese during this season; (2) Hunters may use shotguns capable of holding more than three shot shells; (3) Hunters may use electronic calls with recordings of light geese; and (4) Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

*Note: Shooting hours for regular waterfowl seasons are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset except for (1) Resident Canada geese during September seasons when shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset, and (2) for light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order Season when shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. All season dates are inclusive. There is no possession limit for light geese; for all other waterfowl, the possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. In the Atlantic Flyway States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, where Sunday hunting is prohibited statewide by State law, all Sundays are closed to all take of migratory waterfowl (including mergansers and coots).*

For additional information on waterfowl population status, regulations, where to hunt, and more go DNR Waterfowl Page at [http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Hunt\\_Traps/waterfowl/index.asp](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Hunt_Traps/waterfowl/index.asp).



### Update to Wildlife Advisory Commission July 29, 2015

- Budget, Procurement, Inventory
- Federal Aid Coordination
- Personnel
- Wildlife Permits
- Regulations
- Legislation
- Hunting Guide



## Program Staff

- Glenn Therres, Associate Director
- Ryan Haley, Wildlife Permits
- Connie Roberts, Wildlife Permits
- Wade Henry, Graphic Arts & Hunting Guide
- Errica Muriel, Admin Specialist

## Wildlife Permits

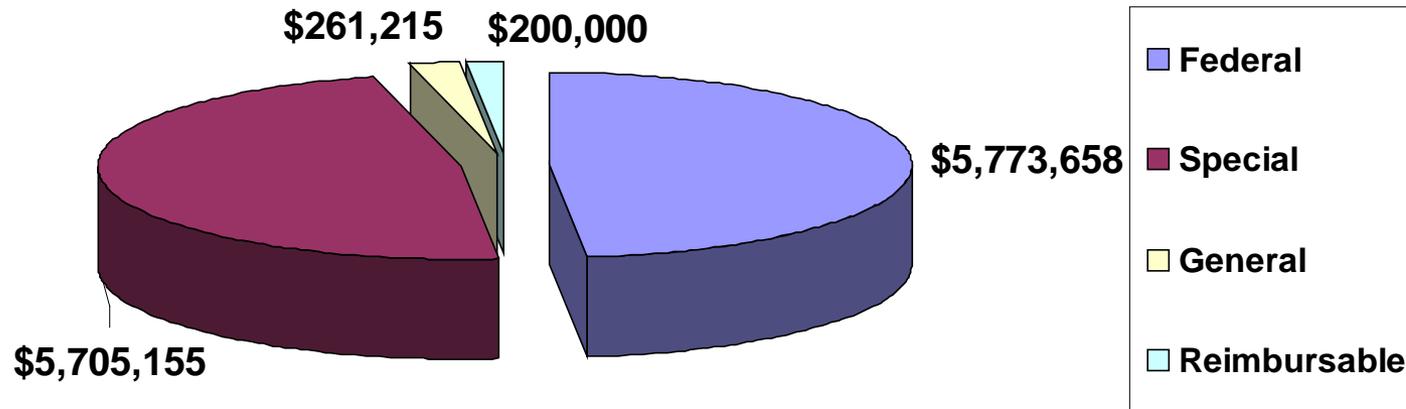
### Ryan Haley

- Shoreline Blind Sites
- Endangered Species
- Scientific Collecting
- Regulated Shooting Areas
- USFWS special permits

### Connie Roberts

- Falconry
- Game Husbandry
- Captive Reptile and Amphibian
- Wildlife Rehabilitation
- Taxidermy
- Wildlife Damage Control Cooperator
- Waterfowl Guide and Outfitter

**FY15 Budget = \$11,940,028**



## State Special Funds - FY15

Wildlife Management & Protection = \$4,800,000

Chesapeake Bay & Endangered Species = \$480,000

Migratory Game Bird Fund = \$400,000

Upland Wildlife Habitat Fund = \$9,000

Deer Stamp Account = \$90,000



## Federal Aid – FY15

Pittman-Robertson = \$5,000,000

State Wildlife Grants = \$600,000

Section 6 Endangered Species = \$45,000

White-nose Syndrome Grant = \$50,000

Other = 10,000



FY16 Budget = \$12,147,711

General = \$344,915

Special = \$5,741,236

Federal = \$5,859,060

Reimbursable = \$202,500



Funding

Staff  
Support



Serve  
the  
Public

	2016 Approp. (All Funds)	2016 General Funds	2016 Special Funds	2016 Federal Funds	2016 Reimb. Funds
<b>Unit: C000 - WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE SERVICE</b>					
Object 01 SALARIES AND WAGES	\$7,366,735	\$2,870	\$4,974,214	\$2,389,651	
Object 02 TECHNICAL AND SPECIAL FEES	\$662,209		\$15,541	\$644,078	\$2,590
Object 03 COMMUNICATIONS	\$218,008	\$33,491	\$85,757	\$98,760	
Object 04 TRAVEL	\$83,679		\$28,704	\$54,975	
Object 06 FUEL AND UTILITIES	\$73,250		\$69,500	\$3,750	
Object 07 MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANC	\$1,154,325	\$50,000	\$13,970	\$1,035,105	\$55,250
Object 08 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$1,551,955	\$10,554	\$240,566	\$1,206,175	\$94,660
Object 09 SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	\$353,591		\$126,713	\$226,878	
Object 10 EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT	\$61,513		\$9,775	\$21,738	\$30,000
Object 11 EQUIPMENT ADDITIONAL	\$110,600		\$4,200	\$86,400	\$20,000
Object 12 GRANT, SUBSIDIES & CONTRIBUTIONS	\$337,000	\$248,000		\$89,000	
Object 13 FIXED CHARGES	\$174,846		\$172,296	\$2,550	
<b>Unit C000 Total:</b>	<b>\$12,147,711</b>	<b>\$344,915</b>	<b>\$5,741,236</b>	<b>\$5,859,060</b>	<b>\$202,500</b>